

# Crimes Reported in Cambridge

January 1 to March 31, 2002

Crime	2001	2002	Change
<b>Murder</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N.C.</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>N.C.</b>
Stranger	0	0	N.C.
Non-Stranger	3	3	N.C.
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>N.C.</b>
Commercial	9	13	+44%
Street	26	22	-15%
<b>Agg. Assault</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>-24%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>+71%</b>
Residential	89	166	+86%
Commercial	30	37	+23%
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Building	135	121	-10%
Motor Vehicle	193	129	-33%
Person	109	131	+20%
Bicycle	10	23	+130%
Shoplifting	133	110	-17%
Residence	43	46	+7%
MV Plate	13	23	+77%
Services	7	7	N.C.
Misc.	4	14	+250%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>Total Prop.</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>+3%</b>
<b>Index Total</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>+1%</b>

## First Three Months in Review

During the first three months of 2002, there were eight more index crimes reported when compared with the same time period last year. The increase from 984 incidents in 2001 to 992 reports this year translates into a scant 1% rise in serious crime in Cambridge for the first quarter of 2002.

A key factor in why we are not heralding a major decline in serious crime can be traced to the dramatic increase of 86% in residential burglary. Housebreaks rose from 89 incidents during the first three months of 2001 to 166 reported crimes during the first quarter of this year. However, further analysis reveals that this crime may have spiked in mid-February and is now on a downward spiral. Over the first 45 days of the first quarter 105 housebreaks were recorded. Only 60 incidents were recorded between February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2002. A number of key arrests by patrol and investigative units should receive credit and attribution for interdicting this trend before it was completely out of control. Whether this trend has played itself out remains to be seen. Patrol sectors two, three and five were hit especially hard last summer and should be given extra attention as the warm weather approaches.

Larceny from the person increased over forty percent between 1999 and 2001. The trend of dippers and pickpockets continues unabated, as there was a 20% increase for this larceny type over the first three months of 2002. Harvard Square coffee shops, cafes and restaurants are targeted with a predominance of activity on weekends.

The 33% decline in larceny from motor vehicles is one of the more positive statistics from the first quarter. Major hot spots around Central Square Mid-

